Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended): A method of deriving a ~~system~~ configuration of a system of a computer in a configuration deriving system which includes a plurality of computers to be performance-guaranteed, a supervisory server and a configuration deriving apparatus, wherein the method is executed by the configuration deriving apparatus, said method comprising:

predicting a response time from issuing of a processing request to end of its processing based on ~~the basis of~~ an occurrence frequency of processing requests to the system of the computer ~~systems~~ and ~~computer system~~ the configurations of the system of the computer, wherein the occurrence frequency is obtained from the supervisory server;

calculating costs of the system ~~configurations~~ based on ~~the basis of~~ the configuration of the system; ~~configurations; and~~

~~deriving a cheapest system configuration from the system configurations having a probability equal to or lower than B with respect to a given response time A and a probability B given as a probability of processing having a response time equal to or longer then A for all the processing requests~~

receiving a response time A from issuing the processing request to the end of its processing;

calculating a probability of existence of processing whose response time is equal to or longer than A with respect to processing of all requests;

deriving a configuration of a cheapest system from among configurations of systems having a probability equal to or lower than B; and

changing the configuration of the system based on a result of the deriving step.

2.   (currently amended): A method of deriving a ~~system~~ configuration of a system of a computer in a configuration deriving system which includes a plurality of computers to be performance-guaranteed, a supervisory server and a configuration deriving apparatus, wherein the method is executed by the configuration deriving apparatus, the method comprising:

predicting a response time from issuing of a processing request to end of its processing based on ~~the basis of~~ an occurrence frequency of processing requests to the system of the computer ~~systems~~ and ~~computer system~~ the configurations of the system of the computer, the occurrence frequency being obtained from the supervisory server;

calculating costs of the system ~~configurations~~ based on ~~the basis of~~ the configuration of the system; ~~configurations; and~~

~~deriving a cheapest system configuration from the system configurations having a probability equal to or lower than D with respect to a given response time C and a probability D given as a probability of processing having a response time equal to or longer then C for all the processing requests~~

receiving a response time C from issuing the processing request to the end of its processing;

calculating a probability of existence of processing whose response time is equal to or longer than C with respect to processing of all requests;

deriving a configuration of a cheapest system from among configurations of

system having the probability equal to or lower than D; and

changing the configuration of the system based on a result of the deriving

step.

3-4.   (canceled).

5.   (currently amended): A method of deriving a system configuration

according to claim [4] 1, wherein

said dynamical change of the system configuration is made by starting or

stopping a preliminary system configuration element.

6.   (currently amended): An apparatus for deriving a ~~system~~ configuration

of a system of a computer in a configuration deriving system which includes a

plurality of computers to be performance-guaranteed, a supervisory server and the

apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

means for predicting a response time from issuing of a processing request to

end of its processing based on ~~the basis of~~ an occurrence frequency of processing

requests to a system of a computer ~~systems~~ and ~~computer system~~ a configurations

of the system of the computer, wherein the occurrence frequency is obtained from a

supervisory server;

means for calculating costs of the system ~~configurations~~ based on ~~the basis~~

~~of~~ the configuration of the system; ~~configurations; and~~

~~means for deriving a cheapest system configuration from the system~~

~~configurations in which a probability having a response time equal to or longer than~~

~~A is equal to or lower than B with respect to a given response time A and a~~

~~probability B given as a probability of processing having a response time equal to or~~

~~longer then A for all the processing requests~~

means for receiving a response time A from issuing the processing request to the end of its processing;

means for calculating a probability of existence of processing whose response time is equal to or longer than A with respect to processing of all requests;

means for deriving a configuration of a cheapest system from among configurations of systems having a probability equal to or lower than B; and

means for changing the configuration of the system based on a result of the deriving step.